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Schools to conduct more safety drills

LANSING – Schools would be required to conduct additional safety drills to ensure students and school employees are better prepared for emergencies under legislation that passed the Senate today, said bill sponsor Sen. Jud Gilbert.

“Parents and educators are concerned that students wouldn’t know what to do if a fire or tornado, or emergency drill happened while they were in the lunch room, out at recess or during an assembly,” said Gilbert. “They’ve usually been taught to follow their teacher single file out the classroom, but chances are they won’t necessarily be in the classroom when a disaster strikes. We need to ensure that everyone is as prepared as possible for many different scenarios.”

Senate Bill 1108 would require certain drills to be conducted during recess, lunch or other times when students are not in the classroom. Currently most drills are conducted while students are organized together in the classroom, leaving them unprepared if an emergency was to happen while they were elsewhere in the building.

The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

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